(c) The amendment proposals under consideration are intended to improve the viability of the Indian Sugar Industry, to enable the sugar mills to make timely payment of cane price dues to promote exports, to augment power generation and to promote use of ethanol for purpose of blending with motor spirit.

Expenditure on preservation of agricultural commodities by FCI

486. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been spent on preservation of agricultural commodities during the last three years of 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 by the Food Corporation of India;

(b) how much stocks of foodgrains has to be stored in open because of lack of constructed godowns;

(c) how much quantity of agricultural produce, including foodgrains were declared unfit for human consumption during the above period; and

(d) the monetary loss that his Ministry had to suffer as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The total amount spent by FCI on pesticides/chemicals only for preservation of foodgrains during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as under:—

Year	Amount spent (Rupees in Crores) Towards the cost of chemicals/pesticides
1998-1999	12.00
1999-2000	14.86
2000-2001	18.00

(b) The quantities of foodgrains (wheat/paddy) which were stored in open during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Average quantity of stocks held in open (in lakh tonnes)
1998-1999	26.36
1999-2000	30.86
2000-2001	51.50

(c) The following quantities were transferred from sound to damaged stock account unfit for human consumption during the last three years:—

Year	Quantities (in lakh tonnes) (Provisional)
1998-1999	1.48
1999-2000	2.14
2000-2001	0.70

(d) Losses incurred on account of transfer of sound foodgrains stocks to damaged stock account could be ascertained only after the accounts are finalized and audited.

Storage capacity for crains

487. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether because of good monsoon and resultant bumper crops, Government propose to build additional storage capacity for grains and has floated global tenders for grain silos in 20 different locations in the country;

(b) if so, what are the proposed locations; and

(c) whether the new silos will have a grading system for different varieties of grains to ensure better and quick quality assessment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) With a view to minimise storage and transit losses and to introduce modern technology in bulk grain handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains, the Government proposes to create bulk grain handling, storage and transportation facilities at 10 locations in producing and consuming areas through private sector participation. However, International Competitive Bids (ICB) for these silos have not been invited till date. In the first step, Expression